Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (withdrawn) A compound having bone stimulatory activity, the compound comprising a peptide having an amino acid sequence of Formula I:

Formula I

in which:

X_1 and X_{10} are positively charged polar amino acids;

X_4 and X_8 are negatively charged polar amino acids;

X_5 is an aromatic amino acid;

X_2, X_3, X_6 and X_7 are non polar neutral amino acids or uncharged polar amino acids;

Z represents a blocking group; and **n** is an integer from 1 to 3.

2. (withdrawn) A compound of claim 1, in which each of X_1 and X_{10} is independently selected from the group of arginine and lysine; each of X_2, X_3, X_6 and X_7 is independently selected from the group of threonine, valine, serine, alanine or glutamine; X_5 is histidine or phenylalanine; each of X_4 and X_8 is aspartic acid or glutamic acid; and Z is a substituted or unsubstituted alkyl, carboxyalkyl or carboxyamidoalkyl group.

3. (withdrawn) A compound of claim 1 in which Z is selected from the group consisting of a lower alkyl group, carboxyloweralkyl or carboxyamidoloweralkyl.

4. (withdrawn) A compound of claim 3, in which the alkyl group is methyl or ethyl and n is 1 or 2.

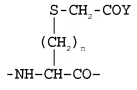
5. (withdrawn) A compound of claim 2 in which the alkyl group of Z is methyl.

6. (original) A peptide with bone stimulatory activity comprising an amino acid sequence containing 10-amino acids selected from the group consisting of peptides of the following Formula Ia:

K T Q E F T A E X_9 K
R T Q E F T A E X_9 K
R T Q E H T A E X_9 K
K T Q E H T A E X_9 K Formula Ia

in which X_9 is methionine or a modified methionine or a modified cysteine.

7. (withdrawn) A peptide of claim 6, in which X_9, when a modified methionine or a modified cysteine, is represented by the formula:



wherein Y represents a hydroxyl, alkoxy or amino group; and **n** is an integer from 1-3.

8. (withdrawn) A peptide of claim 7 in which n is 1 or 2.

9. (withdrawn) A peptide of claim 7 in which at least one of the C-terminus of the peptide or the N-terminus of the peptide includes a protecting group.

10. (withdrawn) A peptide of claim 9, wherein the protecting group of the N-terminus is an acetyl group, and the protecting group of the C-terminus is an amino group.

11. (withdrawn) A peptide having the amino acid sequence identified as SEQ ID NO:1, wherein the N-terminus is optionally protected with an acetyl group, and the C-terminus optionally protected with an amino group.

12. (original) A peptide having the amino acid sequence identified as SEQ ID NO:2, wherein the N-terminus is optionally protected with an acetyl group, and the C-terminus optionally protected with an amino group.

13. (withdrawn) A peptide having the amino acid sequence identified as SEQ ID NO:3, wherein the N-terminus is optionally protected with an acetyl group, and the C-terminus optionally protected with an amino group.

14. (withdrawn) A peptide having the amino acid sequence identified as SEQ ID NO:4, wherein the N-terminus is optionally protected with an acetyl group, and the C-terminus optionally protected with an amino group.

15. (withdrawn) A peptide having the amino acid sequence identified as SEQ ID NO:5, wherein the N-terminus is optionally protected with an acetyl group, and the C-terminus optionally protected with an amino group.

16. (withdrawn) A peptide having the amino acid sequence identified as SEQ ID NO:6, wherein the N-terminus is optionally protected with an acetyl group, and the C-terminus optionally protected with an amino group.

17. (currently amended) A method of stimulating bone growth in a mammal comprising administering to the mammal an effective amount of a compound comprising a peptide according to claim 6 [[1]].

18. (currently amended) A method of treating osteoporosis in a mammal comprising administering to a mammal a therapeutically effective amount of a compound comprising a peptide according to claim 6 [[1]].

19. (currently amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and a therapeutically acceptable amount of a compound comprising a peptide according to claim 6 [[1]].

Claims 20 to 22 (canceled)

23. (withdrawn) A compound of claim 2 in which Z is selected from the group consisting of a lower alkyl group, carboxyloweralkyl or carboxyamidoloweralkyl.

24. (new) A peptide according to claim 12 wherein the N-terminus of the peptide identified as SEQ ID NO:2 is protected with an acetyl group.

25. (new) A peptide according to claim 12 wherein the C-terminus of the peptide identified as SEQ ID NO:2 is protected with an amino group.

26. (new) A peptide according to claim 25 wherein the N-terminus of the peptide identified as SEQ ID NO:2 is protected with an acetyl group.

27. (new) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and a therapeutically acceptable amount of a peptide according to claim 12.

28. (new) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and a therapeutically acceptable amount of a peptide according to claim 24.

29. (new) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and a therapeutically acceptable amount of a peptide according to claim 25.

30. (new) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and a therapeutically acceptable amount of a peptide according to claim 26.

31. (new) A method of stimulating bone growth in a mammal comprising administering to the mammal an effective amount of a compound comprising a peptide according to claim 12.

32. (new) A method of stimulating bone growth in a mammal comprising administering to the mammal an effective amount of a compound comprising a peptide according to claim 24.

33. (new) A method of stimulating bone growth in a mammal comprising administering to the mammal an effective amount of a compound comprising a peptide according to claim 25.

34. (new) A method of stimulating bone growth in a mammal comprising administering to the mammal an effective amount of a compound comprising a peptide according to claim 26.

35. (new) A method of treating osteoporosis in a mammal comprising administering to a mammal a therapeutically effective amount of a compound comprising a peptide according to claim 12.

36. (new) A method of treating osteoporosis in a mammal comprising administering to a mammal a therapeutically effective amount of a compound comprising a peptide according to claim 24.

37. (new) A method of treating osteoporosis in a mammal comprising administering to a mammal a therapeutically effective amount of a compound comprising a peptide according to claim 25.

38. (new) A method of treating osteoporosis in a mammal comprising administering to a mammal a therapeutically effective amount of a compound comprising a peptide according to claim 26.